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December 1, 2010

Via Email and Overnight Courier/Mail

Corbin Davis
Clerk of the Court
Michigan Supreme Court
P.O. Box 30052
Lansing, MI 48909

Re: ADM File No. 2010-18
Proposed Amendment of Rule 6.1 of the Michigan Rules of Professional Conduct

Dear Clerk Davis:

Since 2002, I have been the Chief Executive Officer of Dykema Gossett PLLC. I understand the Court is considering two proposals which amend Rule 6.1 of the Michigan Rules of Professional Conduct.

I wanted to voice my support for the integration of the two tiered donation standard into proposed Rule 6.1. The voluntary donation standard is found in the Voluntary Pro Bono Standard, which among other things, currently asks each attorney annually to accept three pro bono cases, donate 30 hours of pro bono time, or contribute \$300.00 to support civil legal aid. The revision proposes two-tiered approach, raising the recommended contribution to \$500 for those lawyers whose income so allows. The two tiered donation concept was proposed originally in 2005 by my colleague Chris Johnson, while he served as both General Counsel of General Motors and Chair of the Southeast Michigan Access to Justice Corporate Committee. I was a member of that Committee.

At that time, our Committee noted the great disparity in the monetary provision of the standard as compared to the service provision. We also recognized that the present day value of the contribution has diminished greatly since 1990 (when the Voluntary Standard was originally adopted), while the cost of legal services has increased annually. It seemed reasonable to us that as the value of legal services rises, the financial provision of the standard should rise as well. While certainly I am aware that law practice economics vary throughout Michigan; nonetheless, there are a considerable number of lawyers in large law firms, and other successful practices, for



Corbin Davis
Clerk of the Court
December 1, 2010
Page 2

whom an annual contribution greater than \$300 can be supported. As a member of that committee I supported Chris' proposal then and I support it today.

Simply put, equal access to justice is essential to a proper functioning legal system. Dykema has always believed that pro bono service is a critical component to achieving such equality, and it is why we make it mandatory for every Dykema lawyer. However, we recognize that we can always do more to provide equal access to justice for all of our citizens. That is why I support the Supreme Court's discussion of these revisions as they raise important and long-term implications for our legal system. I am confident the Court will adopt a standard that best fits the members of the State Bar of Michigan.

Respectfully yours,

DYKEMA GOSSETT PLLC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rex E. Schlaybaugh, Jr.".

Rex E. Schlaybaugh, Jr.
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

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